

## REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present preliminary amendment the specification is amended to correct minor informalities.

Further, the claims are amended to no longer recite any improper multiple dependencies and to correct for a minor informality in claim 13.

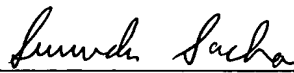
Further, replacement Figs. 14(a)-14(c), 29(a), and 29(b) are submitted herein. Replacement Figs. 14(a)-14(c) now replace originally recited reference number 104 with a proper reference number 101. Further, replacement Figs. 29(a) and 29(b) now include reference number 322.

The amendments to the specification, the amendments to the claims, and the replacement figures are not believed to raise any issues of new matter as the changes submitted in the present response are believed to be self-evident from the original disclosure.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



---

Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599  
Surinder Sachar  
Registration No. 34,423

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

GJM/SNS/law  
I:\ATTY\SNS\274797US-PR.DOC